

Message Text

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ACTION AF-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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R 141339Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USINFO WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4485

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2247

IPS/IBS/IAA

NAIROBI FOR CHANCELLOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: STATE DEPT ADVISORY ON RHODESIA

FOLLOWING STATE DEPT ADVISORY TEXT DISTRIBUTED TO SOUTH AFRICAN
MEDIA AND WIRE SERVICES BY USIS NEWS RELEASE MAY 13:

QUOTE. 1. BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT UNSETTLED CONDITIONS WITHIN SOUTHERN
RHODESIA, THE POTENTIAL IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE FOR INCREASED
VIOLENCE, LACK OF OFFICAL U.S. REPRESENTATION THERE AND
CONSEQUENT INABILITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE OR PROTECTION TO
AMERICAN CITIZENS, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
STRONGLY ADVISES AMERICAN CITIZENS NOT TO TRAVEL TO OR WITHIN
SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

2. FOR THE SAME REASONS, THE STATE DEPTMENT URGES AMERICAN
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CITIZENS NOW RESIDENT IN RHODESIA TO EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION AND

TO MAKE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR AN ORDERLY DEPARTURE IN THE EVENT OF
A MAJOR DETERIORATION OF THE SECURITY SITUATION THERE. UNQUOTE.
MEDIA REACTION AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) ENGLISH LANGUAGE " PRETORIA NEWS: ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 13 UNDER
HEADLINE, " RHODESIA: QUIT ALERT" MADE ARTICLE ITS LEAD STORY ON
FRONT PAGE.
- 2) AFTERNOON JOHANNESBURG DAILY " THE STAR" OF MAY 13 PUT STORY
ON FRONT PAGE UNDER HEAD, " DONT GO TO RHODESIA US WARNS".
- 3) FROM CAPE TOWN, ON MAY 13 " CAPE ARGUS" HAD FRONT PAGE HEADLINES,
"US CITIZENS GET RHODESIA ALERT". MAY 14 " CAPE TIMES" FRONT-PAGED
RHODESIA REPLY UNDER HEAD, " RHODESIA ATTACKS US CALL TO STAY OUT".
AFRIKAANS " DIE BURGER" OF MAY 14 CARRIED REPORT IN INNER PAGES UNDER
LEAD, " RHODESIA- US NOT INFORMED."
- 4) JOHANNESBURG'S LIBERAL " THE RAND DAILY MAIL" OF MAY 14
BURIED NEWS ON PAGE 4 UNDER LEAD, " BEWARE RHODESIA, WARNS US".
AFRIKAANS PRO-GOVT " TRANSVALER" RAN STORY UNDER LEAD, " RHODESIAN
AMERICANS STAY". DATED SALISBURY, ARTICLE INDICATES AMERICANS
RESIDENT IN RHODESIA ARE " DEFINITELY NOT PLANNING TO BEGIN
PACKING THEIR THINGS AND LEAVING THE COUNTRY" DESPITE WARNING.
RHODESIAN GOVT IS SAID TO HAVE REACTED " STRONGLY" TO THE
AMERICAN ADVISORY BY COMMENTING, " AMERICAN STATE DEPT WAS OUT
OF TOUCH WITH CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY".
- 5) NEWS RELEASE AND RHODESIAN REACTION GIVEN HEAVY PLAY BY
SABC-TV AND RADIO ON MAY 13-14. SO FAR, NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.
ITEM.
JACOBSEN.

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